

THE BELL RINGER

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 3

MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY

DECEMBER 17, 1991

MBA's Pride: Eight Seniors Take National Merit Semifinalist Honors



Photo by Justin Crosslin
From left to right: Behdad Shahsavari, Garret Kyle, John Wesley, Mark Szydio, Greg Jones, Scott Hande, Alex Rogers, and Martin Fox

This September, the National Merit Corporation determined that the cutoff point for semifinalist honors in Tennessee to be a selection index of 195. MBA had the second greatest raw number of semifinalists in the city and the greatest number if taken as a proportion of class size. Only 15,000 high school seniors become semifinalists. This 15,000 represents 1% of all the high school seniors nation-wide.

Yo MBA, Recycle!

Flagg Youngblood

The key to any good recycling program is participation. Recycle MBA was started with the sole intention of providing convenient and accessible means for students to be able to recycle their waste paper.

Fortunately, MBA students demonstrated their interest by not only placing their used paper in designated bins, but also by expressing their desire to take an active role in such a program.

This year with the efforts of about forty students from grades nine through twelve, Recycle MBA set out to make the recycling of paper easy by conveniently placing bins in every classroom, study area, and office on campus.

In addition, Recycle

MBA placed can bins in the cafeteria and teachers' lounge in order to collect aluminum cans. Also, Recycle MBA made arrangements to collect discarded cardboard from the office and teachers' lounge.

Estimates of the collected recyclables indicate that Recycle MBA easily saves a full of discarded materials every month.

As stated, the participation of all students and faculty is essential for the success of Recycle MBA.

Please throw waste paper, such as newspaper, notebook paper, copy paper, colored paper, and envelopes (that is, any type and form of non-glossy paper), into any of Recycle MBA's paper bins.

Remember: every ton of

waste paper collected saves seventeen trees from being chopped down, seven thousand gallons of water from being used, and enough electricity to run MBA for one month.

Please place waste cans into one of Recycle MBA's bins in the cafeteria or teacher's lounge. Remember: every aluminum can recycled saves ninety-five percent of the energy it would take to make a new can out of bauxite ore.

Finally, on collection day help out by unlocking and opening doors for those collecting the paper, cardboard, and cans. Remember: group effort can and does make a difference! Let's all be a part of the solution.Ω



Photo by Justin Crosslin
MBA's loyal fans: The hot dog vendors.

Legacy of the MBA Gentleman

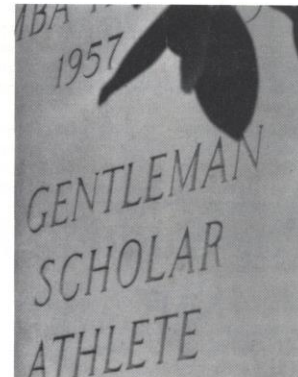


Photo by Russell Acona

The features section for this issue of *The Bell Ringer* takes an in depth look at one aspect of the tripod on which MBA life rests. This tripod consists of the gentleman, the scholar, and the athlete; students see these three items emblazoned on the wall of the Carter Building every day. The school's goal of producing scholars and athletes can easily be measured, but its achievement in producing gentlemen is not so easily assessed. *The Bell Ringer*, therefore, proudly presents interpretations of what the MBA gentleman is.

The Survey Analysis: Telling it like it is

Alex Rogers Editor-in-Chief

In November of 1991 a survey of the attitudes of MBA freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors was conducted to ascertain the views of students on a number of campus issues, including the theme of this issue of *The Bell Ringer*: MBA gentlemen. A systematic random sample of approximately 20% of the student body was selected, and the interviews were conducted by members of *The Bell Ringer*'s editorial board. The sample included 19 freshmen, 16 sophomores, 18 juniors and 23 seniors. Several students were unable to be reached despite multiple callbacks to their homes.

Chris Johnston, co-captain of the MBA football team writes about the "respect and admiration that I have formed

participating with my friends for an ever-so-successful football team." Indeed, 97.4% of all respondents in the survey strongly agreed or agreed with the statement that "MBA athletes are worthy of respect." Also 90.7% agreed that "MBA athletes are gentlemen on the field of competition."

In addition, 98.7% of respondents believed that "MBA athletes are 'good sports.'" The survey discovered many very positive views concerning gentlemen athletes at MBA. However, 61.3% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the statement that "Members of athletic teams form cliques with each other that exclude students not on

continued on page 2...

The Bell Ringer editors and staff express their appreciation to the administration for the new computer.

Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee

FEATURES

Continued from page 1...

the team."

Student Council president Joe Underwood writes that "my actions have been in the eyes of my peers... Leading by example has been a philosophy of mine." Indeed as the graph "Class Officers are Good Examples of MBA Gentlemen" indicates, students overwhelmingly supported the statement: "Student government (student council, class officers) representatives for your class are good examples of what an MBA gentleman should be." Similarly, almost 100% of the students agreed that "The Honor Council representatives exemplify the MBA gentleman."

Mr. Ken Downey, MBA teacher and former MBA student, writes that "MBA 'gentleman' should be courteous, respectful and 'kind' to their teachers, to their coaches, and above all to each other. Learning to be kind, then, is perhaps the first step toward becoming a gentleman." The survey findings indicate that a vast majority of students do not believe that MBA students are kind to each other. As the graph "Unthinking Cruelty is a Common Occurrence on Campus" illustrates, 57.1% of underclassmen and 68.3% of upperclassmen strongly agreed or agreed with the statement that "Unthinking cruelty is a common occurrence on campus."

James Huang, manager

for many of our athletic teams, writes that "a gentleman... respects others, and as a result, treats others with reverence." The survey results indicate that about 60% of MBA students believe that the MBA administration actively discourages prejudice on campus." (See Graph of same name)

Mrs. Anne Christeson, a MBA Latin teacher, has quoted from the famous definition of a gentleman written by John Henry Newman, that a "gentleman never inflicts pain." She goes on further by suggesting that a "gentleman makes you feel comfortable when you are with him." The results of the survey do not demonstrate that this is the case at MBA. The graph

"Prejudice is Prevalent at MBA" clearly shows that approximately seventy percent of students do believe that "Prejudice is prevalent at MBA." That this should be the case despite large numbers indicating that the administration actively discourages prejudice, tells one that the administration's efforts are not successful enough. Also representative of the notion of a gentleman as one who "never inflicts pain" are the responses to the statement "MBA welcomes diversity." While majorities of the freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes agreed with the statement, less than forty percent of the senior class agreed. (See Graph of the same name)

The graph "MBA is a

Friendly Place To Be" may seem inconsistent with the responses to questions concerning cruelty, diversity and prejudice: approximately 90% agree with the statement that "MBA is a friendly place to be." However, the results are not inconsistent because most students are not treated cruelly although observing others who are. Also, the fact that there is so little diversity at MBA means that while most students observe prejudice, they are not its targets. The results may reflect what Tab Burkhalter, president of the service club, writes: "A gentleman should always be courteous and helpful." That, too, may be a prevalent occurrence on campus.

The Sudden Impact of MBA Football

Chris Johnston

For the past two regular seasons, the M.B.A. football team has gone unbeaten. Of course, there are other football teams that have gone undefeated, but most of these teams are not AAA.

Usually, there are 3 or 4 teams in class AAA football that finish without losses, and MBA has done it 2 years consecutively.

At M.B.A., some people could care less about M.B.A. football. While others would sell their soul to the devil in order to be state champs.

My feeling towards this program is closer to the latter. I think M.B.A. football affects my life so drastically because it is practically all that I do.

I am sure my teammates

will agree that after leaving the field in games such as last year's Hillwood and Gallatin, and this year's Cleveland and Father Ryan, the natural high that is experienced is unbelievable.

Another quality that I feel I have achieved has very little to do with the games at all. Through the Tommy Owen style of Football, I could not help but to learn how to be a gentleman.

I am sure a lot of my teachers and friends are laughing as they read this article, but it is true. During my freshman year and sophomore summer, I was desperately in need of some kind of reformation.

It's not that Coach Owen is so strict that you are forced to

seek discipline. Instead, it is the respect and admiration that I have formed participating with my friends for an ever-so-successful football team.

I am not saying that football is the best. I know that one can just as easily fall in love with basketball, baseball, and art.

It all depends on an individual's preference. I have chosen football; we went 10-0 again and one the first round of the state playoffs. Wish us luck as we continue!

Coach Owen, Coach Ryan, Coach Downey, and Coach Elliot, I appreciate everything.Ω

A Governmental Gentleman

Joe Underwood

In my six years on the hill, there have been many influences upon my growth into a gentleman.

Academics, athletics, and relationships with people are examples of these influences; however, the most important was my involvement in student government.

Serving two years as class vice president and one year as student council president, I have gone through MBA as a person in the forefront.

My actions have been in the eyes of my peers. Skipping study hall, eating in the classrooms, and harassing

underclassmen has been forbidden to me which has allowed me to see the difference between right and wrong.

Leading by example has been a philosophy of mine. The responsibilities of being on the student council has instilled in me the ability to listen to my peers and present their mistakes to the school administration.

The Student Council has been a powerful influence on my growth as a person and I also believe it has done the same for other Student Council members.Ω

Service with a Smile: The Gentlemanly Approach

Tab Burkhalter

Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete. The motto of MBA. The school through all facets of activities tries to stress the most important part of the motto, being a Gentleman.

The Service Club at MBA adheres to this belief. A gentleman should always be courteous and helpful. He should be willing to provide service to the school and

community at all times.

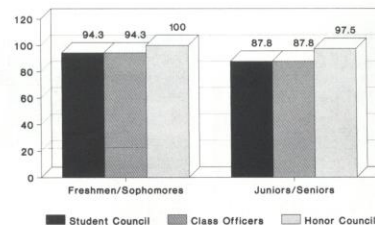
The Service Club is designed to provide those opportunities necessary to forming a Gentleman. By performing service to the school and the community, the Service Club develops leadership and responsibility, two traits of a true gentleman.

The Service Club allows students to become aware that

service as well as gentlemen are too few in the world and they are both highly respected and praised.

A true gentleman, interested in giving service back to his community, is a person to be respected and honored, as he is part of a dying breed in today's world of self-centered egotism.Ω

Class Officers are Good Examples of MBA Gentlemen, Percent "Agree"



Alex Rogers, The Bell Ringer, 1991

FEATURES

"The Man Inside of you" From Student to Teacher

Anne Christenson

Gentleman. We see that word every day, engraved on the foundation of Carter Hall. We hear it many times a year in the three-word description of the M.B.A. ideal. But to put what that word means on paper to give it flesh, so to speak, is a more difficult task than I would have imagined when I was first asked to write this article.

I turned first to authorities from the past. The famous definition given by John Henry Newman, that a gentleman is "one who never inflicts pain" has its merits: after all, pain can be interpreted in many ways, and a gentleman never gives pain of any sort to those around him, whether by an unkind word or a careless shove.

And yet this definition seemed too negative in its approach. The ancient Greek phrase for a gentleman next occurred to me: *kalos k'agathos*, which translates "beautiful and good." Certainly as I think of the gentle-

men I have known at M.B.A. and elsewhere, each of them could be described in this way, but, as with many ideas from the past, the whole

Greeks world's view of these words must be understood in order to interpret the phrase rightly. It would be too easy to misread the phrase and limit the concept only to the physically attractive.

So for the past week I have found myself thinking of phrases to describe a gentleman, and the following list is the result:

A gentleman is one who makes you feel comfortable when you are with him.

When you are with a gentleman you become a better man yourself. You become your best self.

A gentleman can make a woman feel feminine and attractive but never treats her as less than his peer and equal.

A gentleman can

come in any shape and size, can have scholarly or athletic talent or both, can be rich or poor, can attend M.B.A. or Father Ryan, but in any and all cases is a man of integrity, faith, and honor.

A gentleman is the man you have inside you, the man who is the truest, straightest, and most real you. He is the man you will work all your life to be.

And finally, of the three aspects of the M.B.A. ideal, a gentleman is the one which you can be now and all your life, which is not limited by physical or mental talent, which will never be lessened

by the passage of time or the circumstances of your life.

Look around you.

There are gentlemen in the classroom with you today. They are on the athletic field, and they are working at the grocery store. Look for them, look at them, and become yourself what you see in them.Ω

Ken Downey

Since 1978 no one thing has impacted my life more than Montgomery Bell Academy.

The school has not only been responsible for my education and that of two brothers, but it also has been the source of my employment for the past five years.

During the past fifteen years, the words "scholar", "gentleman", and "athlete" have reverberated in my ears on countless occasions.

Whether ten years ago as a student in Mrs. Lowry's English class or now as an eighth grade history teacher, I hear the words and am reminded of the philosophy and vision of the school.

To understand the meaning of these words seems, on the surface, to be easy. when we call someone a scholar, we are referring to him as a well educated person. To quote the Student Handbook concerning the M.B.A. philosophy, a scholar is a person who has a "respect for serious

work and achievement." A scholar seeks knowledge because he is genuinely curious about the world in which he lives.

The third of these words, "athlete," also seems simple enough. When we call someone an athlete, we are referring to a person who exhibits physical ability and prowess in a given sport. It has always been the goal of the

school to promote in its a strong sense of sportsmanship, leadership, and discipline.

"Gentleman", the middle in the phrase, is the hardest to define and is, consequently, perhaps the least understood.

The Handbook is clear enough concerning the school's notion of a scholar and athlete but is a bit more vague when describing a gentleman.

The phrase that seems most aptly to apply is that a gentleman is a person who has "an appreciation for the worth of himself and that of other individuals." The Handbook further states that the school wishes to promote in its gentleman "discipline, dependability, honor, and leadership." I might add to this definition by looking at the word's bare essentials. A "gentle" "man" is a "land" "man". This is possibly too simplistic, but kindness seems to

be something our world, and at times our school, lacks.

M.B.A. "gentlemen" should be courteous, respectful, and "kind" to their teachers, to their coaches, and above all to each other. Learning to be kind, then, is perhaps the first step toward becoming a gentleman.

After all, not all M.B.A. students have the innate ability to be Rhodes "scholars" or Olympic "athletes", but they all have the ability to be "gentleman."Ω

When you are with a gentleman you become a better man yourself. You become your best self.

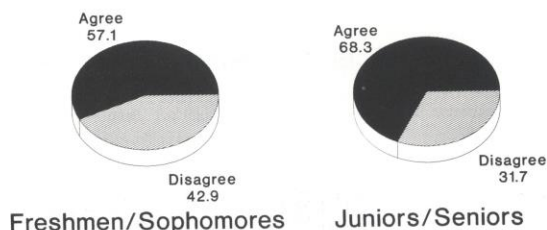
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After all, not all M.B.A. students have the innate ability to be Rhodes "scholars" or Olympic "athletes," but they all have the ability to be "gentleman."

Unthinking Cruelty is a Common Occurrence on Campus

Alex Rogers, *The Bell Ringer*, 1991

Congratulations to the football team for an outstanding effort and season!

- From A Friend



Charlotte Smith

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FEATURES

Going Beyond the Call of Duty

What are the characteristics that we admire in others? I admire great athletes who display great strength and ability on the playing fields.

I also admire the great scholars who excel in the classrooms. When the athletes and scholars are off the playing fields and out of the classrooms, however, what are the qualities that elevate certain individuals above others?

Webster's Dictionary defines a gentleman as "a well bred and honorable man." Lit-

erally, therefore, a gentleman embodies certain characteristics. Being "well-bred" a gentleman must show courtesy toward others. Similarly, he is expected to personify

qualities such as patience and kindness.

A gentleman, for instance, chooses to do what is right and proper as dictated by common sense. Overall, a gentleman literally stands for class and integrity.

Being "honorable," a gentleman must represent all the ideals associated

with honor. A gentleman, for instance, chooses to do what is right and proper as dictated by common sense. Overall, a gentleman literally stands for class and integrity.

Aside from these com-

mon characteristics, however, a gentleman is someone who can rise above what is required of him in order to contribute to his community.

Being a gentleman does not merely mean adherence to honesty and class, it also means that one must give of himself.

A gentleman does whatever it takes to contribute, even if this action involves a task that no one else will perform. Moreover, a gentleman performs his duties with genuine enthusiasm.

He does not complain or make excuses, but works with sincere effort. As a gentleman does not seek attention, he knows when to speak and

when to listen.

A gentleman also respects others and, as a result, treats others with reverence. Finally, a gentleman has a true desire to be honorable. He is motivated to do what is right and good.

We, as individuals, affect others around us whether intentionally or coincidentally. A gentleman earns the respect of his peers.

He possesses qualities that elevate him above other individuals. When I consider the attributes of a gentleman, one phrase that sums up the

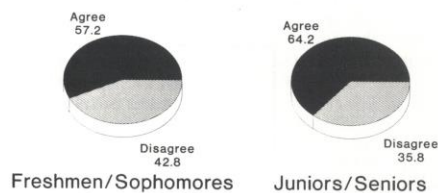
meaning of a gentleman to me comes to mind: "Know the truth and be true to what you know" (Duffy Robbins).

Whether in religion, athletics, academics, general decorum, or any other aspect of his life, a gentleman learns what is right and observes these truths.

Therefore, in my opinion, it is the honorable ways in which an individual conducts himself in every aspect of his life that earn him the privilege of being called a "gentleman." Ω

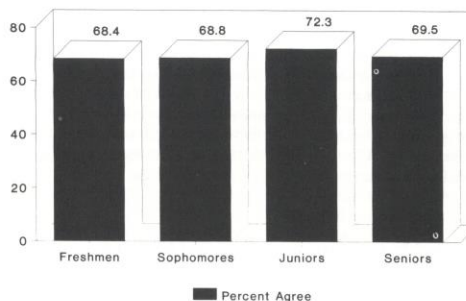
A gentleman does whatever it takes to contribute, even if this action involves a task that no one else will perform.

Does the Administration Actively Discourage Prejudice on Campus



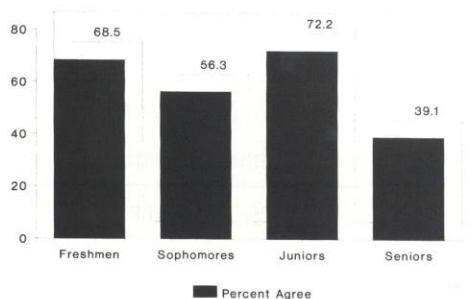
Rogers, The Bell Ringer, 1991

Prejudice is Prevalent at MBA



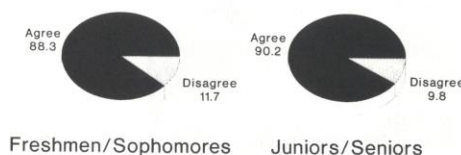
Rogers, The Bell Ringer, 1991

MBA Welcomes Diversity



Rogers, The Bell Ringer, 1991

MBA is a Friendly Place to Be



Rogers, The Bell Ringer, 1991

OPINIONS

Letters to the Editor

I Stand by What I Say

Dear Bell Ringer,

Due to a recent slanderous article published by *The Bell Ringer* [The Nature of Generalizations volume 48 number 2 page 5], I am compelled to defend my so-called "deleterious generalization" that I had once made during assembly.

I intend to make up for my words not by presenting an expected apology, but instead, by giving a slice of reality to the writer of such an article.

Firstly, my classmate cited the quotation, "It is no joke to be malicious; never are jokes pleasing which cause harm."

This quote was spoken by the ancient Roman Seneca who was born at approximately 4 B.C. I agree that he was a prudent man for his era, but I feel that things might have changed since then.

During the time of Seneca, one may have been put to death for a disliked joke. Since the start of A.D., society has developed a sense of humor which enables it to cope with a humorous comment.

ment.

Secondly, the writer of the article states that, "The significance of his statement, as well as its reception by the audience, troubled me."

Apparently, he feels that he is the only student with such a grip on reality that he must preach. This writer along with few others, if anybody, should perhaps not take every little thing to such a drastic extreme.

The mind behind that article assured the student body that my comment forced you as a whole to be characterized as pompous, callous, and disrespectful to others.

If a visitor or member of the press were present, such characteristics would be spread supposedly throughout society and M.B.A.'s reputation of excellence would be shattered.

But friends, that scenario is a wee bit drastic. If a visitor had been present, he or she would have noticed that our principal and leader was laughing at the humor of the comment.

Dr. Paschall is one of the most dignified, honorable, re-

sponsible, and important figures throughout the entire school. If my comment was inappropriate, I am sure he would have told me.

Thirdly, I am sure that many of you are aware of the gun control problem at high school football games. It seems to me that the school of which my comment was directed at has had its problems with guns.

As we were leaving the field, two teammates of mine were struck from behind by people present at the game. I am not saying that everyone at this school would have done this; my comment simply stated that the type of people who would carry hand guns could be present at such a place.

I feel that each of these suppositions justify my actions and prove that there was nothing irresponsible, unrestrained, or unintelligent within my announcement.

I hope that there will be no further difficulties in my assembly announcements.Ω

Sincerely,
Chris Johnston

To Chop or not to Chop

Paul Moser

The 1991 Atlanta Braves, defying all odds, won the national league pennant behind the overwhelming support of their tomahawk-waving fans.

The popular Indian war chant, accompanied by the motion of a tomahawk inspired the Braves, the city of Atlanta, and millions of baseball fans to root for the underdog Braves in the World Series.

In Minneapolis, native Americans protested the Braves, their nickname, and their new chant by amassing several thousand Native Americans outside the Metrodome, randomly picking Braves fans, and taking their foam tomahawks. Several were arrested, but all were upset about the use of Indian names for team names.

This debate has gone on since the Cleveland baseball club first named itself the Indians, in 1904. Why so much fuss now?

Native Americans claim there is a lack of respect and honor for their people when teams' mascots are racially motivated. In one incident, a Native American displaying a sign at a Braves game was spat on, sneeringly called "Chief" and "Cochise," and was doused with beer and soft drinks.

The sign read, "Indians are people, not mascots. We deserve respect." It is clear that this man did not get the respect he so desperately desired.

Why not? Of course, most people do not associate the tomahawk chop, the Warriors of Hunter's Lane, or the Re-

dskins of Washington D.C. with hatred for Indians.

To the everyday M.B.A. students, speaking with Native Americans is rare, and it seems a far-away issue. The fact is, there are approximately 300,000 Native Americans living in Tennessee.

At a church youth group, I spoke with a woman from the Association of Native Americans concerning the nickname issue. She was personally offended by the nickname, the chant, the warrior paint, and headresses along with everything else.

What we have forgotten is that Indians are a race. Hispanics, Jews, Blacks, Whites, Orientals, Redskins. Which one does not belong?

It is clear that the "Chattanooga Chicks" or the "Birmingham Big-Lips" would not be accepted, passed, or even considered, as they are "major" minorities.

Indians seem to be lowest on the proverbial totem pole because they are not as outspoken and have no leader like Martin Luther King Jr. was for African-Americans.

Braves Fans wanted their team to win. David Justice, Alejandro Pena et al. played on the team. They won. If they were named the Tigers, the Chihuawas, etc.

There would have been no problem. Indians have been treated badly for so long, that a team successful under their name is badly taken. I say, no big deal. Change the nickname, think before you act, and, with a little understanding, problems will be avoided.Ω

replace Mr. Kemp? One thinks: This is the administration which seemed to offer a renewed interest in the arts.

I can only offer my deepest respect to the chorus which is being led only by a group of very strong seniors without any faculty support. I hope that the student body will turn out in large numbers to support the chorus on December 7th since I doubt anyone in the Ball Building really cares.Ω

Sincerely,
Matt Foster

Where, oh Where, Has the Chorus Gone?

Dear Bell Ringer,

Seven years ago the MBA chorus was a pretty pathetic excuse for a musical endeavor. It lacked enthusiasm, student participation, and most of all, adequate leadership.

Six years ago at registration, all students were given a flyer about the new chorus which was being revamped by a Mr. Michael Kemp. That year, Mr. Kemp took over fifty students who could not read music and taught them to sing and to perform.

The next few years, the chorus began to flourish; auditions became necessary, students began to read music, and the chorus continued to be successful as it conquered harder music.

Then in the fall of 1988,

Dr. Douglas Paschall appeared on campus as the new headmaster. With the arrival came a new interest in the arts. In the years following his arrival, music classes began in the junior school; the chorus began joint projects with Harpeth Hall and St. Cecilia; the chorus began learning a form of sight reading; a new course in Music History became available. All of these accomplishments were due to the new emphasis upon the arts by Dr. Paschall.

The chorus was able to perform with an orchestra; they were able to perform a mass by Mozart; the chorus was winning choral contests and sight-singing awards. Truly, one could say that these were the golden years of

the chorus.

Then Mr. Kemp left. September rolled around and it became apparent to the chorus that no one had been hired to replace Mr. Kemp. Instantly, chorus members began to drop out. Then it was announced that Mrs. Marion Ross, the chorus' pianist would lead the chorus. More people dropped out. A few weeks passed as the chorus struggled without Mr. Kemp. More Chorus members dropped out—even seniors. Hmmm. Why could this be?

I propose that the reason the chorus is now failing is because of the lack of interest shown by the administration. When the director of a choral group leaves, common sense

dictates that one would hire a substitute. No. The headmaster has been so busy with his new fine arts building. So he asks the pianist to direct the chorus. Cool... Fine.

Unfortunately, the pianist involved does not have the ability to inspire an all-male chorus.

However, I do not intend to point the finger at Ms. Ross. That would be cruel, unfair, and short-sighted.

I do intend to blame the administration. Did anyone actually make an effort to

Guns N' Roses Gunning for Success with a New Album

Last month the long-awaited, much-heralded, brand-spanking-new Guns 'n' Roses albums appeared on the shelves. The delay was partly caused by the expulsion of drummer and all-around winner Steve Adler, but another reason the band waited four years to release a follow-up full-length album was their consistent alcohol and drug use.

The Gunners returned with, not one album, not a double album, but two completely different albums. One is titled *Use Your Illusion I* and the other is brilliantly titled *Use Your Illusion II*. Time magazine recently did an article on Guns 'n' Roses which apparently shows that the writer, despite growing up in the Elvis the pelvis generation, conforms to the sect of adults that think that rock music is lewd and bawdy. These are only two of the many adjectives that would fit hand-in-glove with Guns 'n'

Roses. The band sounds tighter than ever, probably due to the addition of the ex-Cult drummer Matt Sorum. The extra element of the keyboards adds a bluesy touch to the band. The keyboards were being handled by Dizzy Reed even before Steve got the axe.

The albums contain the expected harder, quicker tunes with Axl whining himself hoarse as usual, but more impressive music lies just a mature step away from "Right Next Door to Hell." Lyrically, Axl has written incredible songs. Check out "Estranged" on the second side of *Use Your Illusion II*. What may take many listeners by surprise is the Dylanesque tones of Izzy's voice singing some songs; "Dust 'n' Bones" is probably the best example. The entire band had a hand in writing these

songs, and apparently, Duff wanted his piece of the pie; he wrote "So Fine" and sings on it. Duff is a good background singer, and that's where he should stay. Slash recorded all the guitars on "Locomotive" which is enough to put him in the ring with James Hetfield for massive eight-minute-plus guitar arrangements. Slash also aided in writing "Coma" another rather lengthy ditty on *I*.

The band strays into some heated territory on "Don't Damn Me," an ode to explain the press's affection for complaining about lyrical content.

The author of the aforementioned Time maga-

zine article did not understand the point of the song and went on to complain about the lyrical content of the album. The first side of *I* contains a rare glimpse of the band's country side on "You ain't the First," which takes its title from the line, "You was just a temporary lover, honey/ Lots of others came before you/ Said but you been the worst." On "Estranged" Slash creates some incredible melodies on his overdriven slide guitar.

"You could be mine," despite the lyrics, is a pretty cool song in that it showcases what the band does best: locking into that enormous groove and bashing their blood-and-guts riffs out of their instruments. The albums are not as perfect a some would assume. The hiatus from the studio

provided some great material, but not every tune is, well, listenable. "Get in the Ring" is really bad. There is no way around it. I understand the sentiment and basically agree that the band has a right to attack those publications which lied about the band in order to scam a quick buck off the fans, but the music is sad.

The guitar riff that opens the song is annoying and cheesy, almost, if not fully, able to compete with some of those Eagles songs. "My World," a quick melodious ditty which shows of Axl's talent (or lack thereof) for drum machine programming and synthesizing, is quite embarrassing.

Guns 'n' Roses is back to Los Angeles club scene which they invented to the stadiums, and prove Poison, Warrant, Winger, etc. that moussed hair and an erect middle finger doesn't make the music heavy.Ω

The Bell Ringer presents William Rice's interpretation of the question: "What is a gentleman?" The work is entitled "A View of a Gentleman."



ENTERTAINMENT

Pixies - *Trompe le Monde*

Asher Dudley

Trompe le Monde, the latest album by the Pixies, manages to mix elements of the Boston band's earlier work with a new direction to produce a sound that is uniquely the Pixies', yet unlike anything they've done before. Tracks such as "Bird Dream of the Olympus Mons" and "Alec Eiffel" smack off the cleaner, less abrasive sound of 1990's *Bossanova*. But the overall feel seems to be a return to the biting gruginess of 1989's *Doolittle*.

Black Francis' vocals range from rich and clear on "Bird Dream" to screeching on "The Sad Punk." He also makes extensive use of a vocal distorter for many tracks including the first single of the album, "Planet of Sound."

No one instrument really dominates the music, but Joey Santiago's guitars are the most prominent (after, of course, Black's vocals). Kim Deal does a great job on bass once again, but unlike Primus of Firehouse, the bass is not used as a solo instrument that goes off on its own, but instead as a complementary rhythm.

David Lowering's are equally impressive, but once again, they are used in total conjunction with the bass to create the foundation for the guitars and vocals.

Bossanova saw the use of at least one uncredited instrument that I know of, the theramin, and *Trompe le*

Monde adds more musicians. Jeff Feldman handles the tables and dumbek and Eric Drew Feldman enriches the Pixies' sound with his keyboards. These instruments give the album its unique sound.

The lyrics, penned by Black Forrest, are typical of the Pixies: seemingly nonsensical, sometimes sounding like random words the happen to make a sentence (if even that). Those that do have themes deal with people like "Little" Eiffel (of the Eiffel Tower) or, in one of the more interesting themes, ol' Jeff Feldman, tables player extraordinaire.

Apparently Black and Co. needed another song, so they wrote "Space I Believe In," the chorus of which is "jefrey with one f jefrey." But the Pixies do not try to be political or sappy or anything else. The lyrics complement the music more by how they sound, not what they say.

While the messages hammered out in every track by a Consolidated or Fugazzi are not only commendable but also enjoyable. Sometimes it is nice to sit back and let the music, for the music's sake, just take you over.

In the end, *Trompe le Monde* has enough pop sensibilities to be a huge success while not putting off the traditional Pixies fans, many of whom thought *Bossanova* was something of a sell-out. I'm sure you are all anxious to rush out. Ω



Photo by Justin Crosslin

The Homecoming Court arrives!

Nirvana Can Be Found Underground

Eric Greenwood

The underground music scene in Seattle, Washington has been flourishing over the past few years producing the diverse sounds of such bands as Soundgarden and Mudhoney. The latest band out of Seattle to sweep the underground is Nirvana.

Nirvana got their start in 1987 when bassist Chris Novaselic and guitarist Kurt Cobain met at an art school and decided to form a band.

With drummer Chad Channing and guitarist Jason Everman completing the group, Nirvana released the single "Love Buzz" in 1987 followed by an EP in 1988.

Seattle's local label Sub-Pop Records signed the band and released their debut album "Bleach" in 1989 to much underground acclaim.

Known as an intense live act, Nirvana toured for two years straight proving to be the band to see live.

Replacing Chad Channing with drummer David Grohl—guitarist Jason Everman simply decided to leave

— Nirvana toured as a trio through the spring of '91, and released another EP entitled "Silver" (extremely hard to find).

Nirvana went into the studio this past summer to record a second album entitled "Nevermind," which was completed in a mere three weeks.

Evidently, most of the songs off the new album were written and demoed live over the past two years making them easy to record.

Nirvana released "Nevermind" in September as their major label debut in association with Sub-Pop. As a trio, Nirvana displays much tighter and more melodic sound.

The band's adrenalin-pumping, emotionally-draining first single, "Smells Like Teen Spirit," has rocked college airwaves incessantly for weeks now.

(Guitarist) Kurt Cobain's vocals range from a soft-spoken strain ("Polly") to a husky screech ("Territo-

rial Pissings"). The band's ability to use guitars sparingly drives each song to a highly intense climax. Cobain's lyrics (sometimes hard to decipher) reveal the general angst of his generation. The self-pity of "Lithium" is expressed by the lines "I'm so ugly, but that's okay 'cos so are you." Nirvana prove that they have nothing to hide with their writhing hatred of "Stay Away" and the total confusion of "Breed".

Nirvana's hard-core fans will not be disappointed with "Nevermind"—it is the most impressive album released in '91 thus far, and I doubt that it will be surpassed by anything else coming out this year.

It is rumored that Nirvana will open for the Red Hot Chili Peppers later this year, whether this renders true we will have to wait and see, but whatever you do, don't miss this band live. Ω



Skipworth salutes Alex Rogers. Alex is editor-in-chief of *The Bell Ringer*, secretary of the Honor Council, and a member of cum laude and Totomoi.

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MASSEY CHRONICLE

From Russia with Love

Lee Hampton

On Monday, October 28, 1991, Olga Ivashova came and visited the M.B.A. junior school and explained many things about her homeland.

Olga, a resident of Moscow R.F.S.R., works as an English-speaking tour guide who was invited to the U.S. by the Garrett family after she guided them on a tour to Russia.

Mrs. Ivashova explained many aspects of Russian life, including living conditions, her work, and the state of the Soviet economy. Afterwards she took ques-

tions from the seventh graders which were not covered by the media.

Mrs. Ivashova will stay a number of days in the U.S. before she returns to her family which includes an eight year old son. She found M.B.A. an unusual school as there are no separate schools for boys and girls in Russia.

She also said that the greatest problem in Russia is the drastic change after seventy years of Communism to a more democratic society. She was most impressed by the grocery stores in the U.S.

She was most impressed by the grocery stores in the U.S.

Junior School B-Ball, Building Up with Young Players

Grant Martin

This year's '91-'92 microbe basketball team is armed with 11 seventh graders and 8 eighth graders.

Jim Alley, one of the few eighth graders, says, "Just because we're younger doesn't mean we aren't better." Although the microbe team is young, they have been working hard and consist of many key players.

Last year the 'crobcs finished with an HVAC championship and an 18-3 record. "Last year we had five and six-two giants, this

year our tallest man is five-ten," says Brandon Plunkett returning from the championship team.

The microbe team has many quick guards and wingmen that can shoot the ball well. They also have some meat under the boards to make up for their height.

Coach Jeff Forehand continues to encourage the team by saying, "If we work hard and play scrappy defense, we could have another championship trophy."Ω

Dud's Day No Dud

Phillip Zimmerman

There were many different types of tee-shirts at Duds Day. Probably the most popular was Hard Rock Cafe. There were also some one of a kind shirts.

We had everything from Guns N' Roses and Van Halen to Banana Republic shirts. Some other types were tennis and soccer shirts, and any other kind you could think of.

There were also many types of shoes. Of course, we had tennis and basketball shoes, but that was not near the extent of it. We had TEVA's, which are a kind of sandal, hiking shoes, buck boots, and soccer shoes. There were also some that you could not tell what they were.Ω

Congratulations to Paul W. Schiel, III and Howell S. Arnold for becoming Eagle Scouts

Junior School Football Closes with a Squeaker

Lee Hampton

This year's junior school football team finished the season at 3-4, narrowly losing its last game by two inches and two points.

The extremely close final game with David Lipscomb was lost in double overtime after M.B.A. failed by two inches to score the two point conversion.

M.B.A. gave up two consecutive T.D.'s in the first quarter, putting the score at 12-0 Lipscomb was leading into the end of the quarter, but MBA rallied and was soon leading 14-12. At halftime, Lipscomb kicked off, M.B.A. received and scored a touchdown a few plays later.

Lipscomb stopped the conversion and scored a

touchdown one quarter later, tying the game after making a two point conversion.

On the second overtime, Lipscomb scored eight points, and after making another touchdown Big Red failed, on a questionable call, to make the two points by two inches.

The losing record; however, does not tell the entire story. St. Henry's which had scheduled to play the Microbe team, decided after the Big Red Victory over Christ the King, not to play the Microbe team as planned.

On this year's junior school several notable offensive linemen included Daniel Rivers and Will Sutherland, centers Bill Maggart, Scott

Dinbo, and Jeremy Langlois, Guards Matthew Berry, Jeff Gazelle, John Garton, and John Sunn.

Tackles in the offensive backfield were Matt Fuller, and Jeff Day; at quarterback was Paul Russell. Will Bartholemew, Hunter Atkins, and John Mc Clendon played the running back positions.

The junior high team would like to thank its excellent coaching staff made up of headcoach Jim Daugherty, linecoach Robbie Bueno, and running back coaches fuller, Bryan Blecker, and line and equipment coach Luther Killian.Ω

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Panasonic Dot Matrix 9-pin Printer
Compatible with IBM, Commodore, Amiga will sell for \$50 contact Alex Rogers at #646-9459

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SPORTS

Cross Country continued. . .

varsity frequently changed. The top four on the team were consistent, but Taylor Harris, John Farringer, Mark Wyckoff, Glenn Gaston, Jason Barton, Frazer Buntin, David Berry, Jonathan Fly, and Geoff Zimmerman competed for the 5th, 6th, and 7th spots.

The Big Red continued to win by taking 1st place in the District 11 AAA meet. Glenn Gaston and John Farringer ran their best times: 17:16, 17:36 respectively, while the Crosslins, Hande, D. Wyckoff, and Harris also performed well. The J.V. swept the top seven places, with 8th grader Jim Alley running a 17:42 and with Jonathan Fly, Jason Barton, Frazer Buntin, and Geoff Zimmerman finishing between 17:53 and 17:56.

M.B.A. also won the district regular season. Since these meets provide little excitement and competition, the juniors decided to showcase their automobiles' maneuverability and destructive potential. Luckily, there were no accidents like the one that occurred last year. Usually, Coach Pruitt runs only the J.V. at regular season district meets, but seeing the chance

to win, he sent in all the troops to battle Ryan. Ryan, not expecting this move, was shocked and dismayed to see the M.B.A. varsity line up at the starting line, but the race's end proved that our J.V. could have handled the Irish without help. Taylor Harris and Glenn Gaston were named to the All-District Team.

On a dreary, drizzling day, the cross-country team set out to win the region. The team accomplished its goal for the eleventh straight year, a state record for consecutive region victories, and the runners ran fast times despite hazardous conditions. Taylor Harris set a personal record of 17:18, and Justin Crosslin led the M.B.A. contingent with a fourth place finish. Justin, John, and Scott were named to the prestigious 1st Team All-Metro, and David, Taylor, and Glenn made the 2nd Team.

In the state meet, the team did not place as high as it wished, with a 9th place finish. Scott Hande placed first for the team, running a personal best of 16:55. Justin and John Crosslin exerted all their energy with gutsy 2nd and 3rd place team finishes. David

Wyckoff ran in the low 17's, and Mark Wyckoff ran in the 17:20's to round out the top 5.

Overall, this year was a good year for the M.B.A. cross-country team. The seniors took a step forward in leadership and performances, the juniors and sophomores continued to run well, and the freshman emerged as competitive runners. Freshman such as Phillip Guengerich, Kenneth Pruitt, Cory Morgan, Freddie O'Connell, and Nathan Lujan after becoming acclimated to the stringent demands of cross-country, made drastic improvements of up to five minutes. These freshmen, along with fellow newcomers M. Wyckoff, Farringer, Fly, and Berry show great promise for the future. The team also got along well and was able to find some enjoyment in running and getting in shape. Coach Pruitt attributed this fact to the leadership of the seniors.

The Cross-Country team would like to thank Coaches Pruitt, Drake, and Rundberg, Fan Of The Year Tommy Lawrence, and all the other people who came to watch the team run.

Football from page 10 . . .

14-0. Senior Joe Underwood returned from a collarbone injury early in the season and quarterbacked the next touchdown drive giving the Big Red a 21-0 lead at the half. Shannon Durrett's touchdown run iced the game early in the fourth quarter providing the final 41-0 margin.

Playing well on offense were linemen Ward and Sitton while Bartholomew and Moser spearheaded the defense which recorded its third consecutive shutout.

The win clinched the District title for the Big Red. The next week the Big Red attempted to complete its second consecutive undefeated season.

After an emotional rout of archrival Father Ryan, the Big Red travelled to Hillsboro with two goals in mind: first, to stop the leading rusher in the city, Brian McGill, and secondly, to complete its second season unbeaten.

The Big Red came to play and trounced the Burros 38-7. Glenn Harris scored four touchdowns, including an interception and a kickoff returned for a touchdown.

The victory was not without cost, however, as leading tackler Eric Crawford injured his shoulder.

After its defeat of Hillsboro, MBA then took on the Maplewood Panthers at Tommy Owen Field.

Boasting an offensive line over 270 pounds a man and an elusive quarterback Percy Blue, Maplewood seemed a worthy opponent of the Big Red.

MBA continued its season-long domination of Nashville thrashing Maplewood 41-14. Glenn Harris led the offense, scoring three touchdowns and rushing for 136 yards. The secondary also performed admirably, intercepting five passes.

The highlight of the game was Jackson Wray's interception which was then lateraled to Chris Johnston who ran for a touchdown.

An Andy Russ field goal and a touchdown pass from Joe Underwood to Sam Bartholomew capped the scoring.

After its defeat of Maplewood, the Big red geared up

for the clash of the two undefeated AAA titans: MBA and Gallatin. With an overflow crowd of 6000 people on hand, the Big Red lost a hard-fought battle to the Green Wave, 20-18.

A muffed punt in the first quarter led to a Glenn Harris touchdown run. A blocked extra point gave MBA a 6-0 lead.

Gallatin answered to take the lead 7-6 after recovering a fumble deep in MBA territory.

A Gallatin fumble led to a Joe Underwood touchdown run, but the two-point conversion attempt failed, giving MBA a slight 12-7 lead.

With less than five minutes remaining in the first half, Gallatin converted yet another MBA turnover for a touchdown and then recovered the outside kick, which resulted in another TD and gave the Green Wave a 20-12 lead.

Late in the third quarter, Gallatin stymied a Big Red scoring opportunity, stopping MBA on fourth and two from the two yard line.

Thanks to a strong defensive effort by Shad Weaver and Chris Johnston, the Big Red offense was able to rally for one last-gasp effort.

Under the direction of R.A. Dickey, the Big Red drove down the field and scored on a Glenn Harris touchdown run, cutting the score 20-18.

The two-point conversion failed and ended MBA's state championship hopes.

With a strong Junior class returning, there's always hope for next year.

For the seniors, they finish having added the legacy of two consecutive district championships and undefeated seasons to the MBA football tradition.

The football team would like to thank the parents, the students, and the cheerleaders for their support and especially the coaching staff of Owen, Elliot, Regen, and Downey whose geniuses engineered another unbeaten season.

**Congratulations
for a fantastic season!**

The Bell Ringer

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SPORTS

Cross Country Captures 11th Straight Region Title

Taylor Harris

At the end of the last school year, the cross-country team assembled to elect this year's captains. Roy Alley, Justin Crosslin, and Matt Zibas

were chosen, and they, along with fellow seniors Scott Hande, Alex Rogers, and David Wyckoff, provided excellent leadership for the team during the summer and fall. Unfortunately, Roy, Matt, and Alex suffered season-ending injuries; however, the remaining seniors along with several underclassmen stepped up and filled the gaps.

In the Tennessee Classic, the first big meet of the year, the varsity placed ninth and

the J.V. captured third. Justin Crosslin, Alley, Jo. Crosslin, Hande, and D. Wyckoff scored points for the varsity while John Farringer ran a

time to the other 6 runners to make up for Alley's absence. 4 of these 6 athletes ran their best times up to that point, with Justin Crosslin running

what proved to be his season's best time at the Steeplechase, 16:34. The Big Red varsity placed fourth, while the competitive junior varsity took second.

M.B.A. won the Gallatin Invitational, a race involving 10

runners from each school. All ten of M.B.A.'s runners vied for spots on the varsity, and throughout the season, positions on the varsity and junior

continued on page 9...



Photo by Dell Crosslin

Top Row: John Crosslin, David Wyckoff, Justin Crosslin, Taylor Harris, Scott Hande, Mark Wyckoff, Glenn Gaston. Middle Row: John Farringer, David Berry, Geoff Zimmerman, Kenneth Pruitt, Philip Guengrich. Bottom Row: Alex Rogers

strong time of 17:43. Jason Barton paced the J.V. with a time of 17:53.

During the next big meet, the A. F. Bridges, injury struck Roy Alley, and coach Robert Pruitt barked instruc-

Big Red Football: Rollin' Right Along

Will Berry

After a strong 4-0 start, the M.B.A. Big Red football team has continued its sheer domination of Metro and District opponents in reeling off five consecutive wins earning a 9-0 record, a berth in the playoffs, and a District title.

Playing three of its first four games on the road, the team was happy to be entering a three game homestand. The dangerous Hunter's Lane Warriors from District 12-AAA entered Tommy Owen Stadium hungry for a victory. An early touchdown by Glenn Harris got the Big Red off to an early lead which they would not relinquish. A late Hunter's Lane touchdown made it interesting, but the Big Red prevailed 29-8.

The following week the Big Red came ready to play

Johnston's two long touchdown runs broke the game open and the defense, led by Crawford and Russ, recorded its first shutout of the season. The line, anchored by Wood and Moser, opened huge holes all night and provided Dickey with protection in the pocket.

The following week, the Big Red traveled crosstown to Hillwood to take on the stingy Hilltoppers. Possibly looking forward to a Homecoming battle with Ryan, the Big Red played a sloppy first half. An important punt return by Glenn Harris, aided by the bonecrushing blocks of Crawford, Wray, and Wood led to the only touchdown of the game, a thirteen yard touchdown pass from Dickey to Wray.

After its disappointing

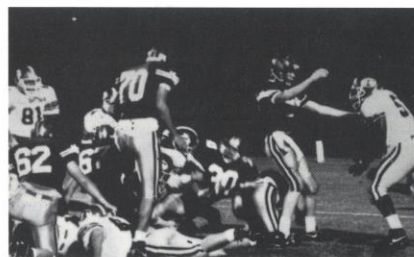


photo by Justin Crosslin

and stymied the Tullahoma Wildcats, winning 29-6. With four District games remaining, the team focused on beating the likes of Whites Creek, Hillwood, Hillsboro, and the hated Irish of Father Ryan. When the Cobras entered Tommy Owen Stadium, the Big Red was ready to play.

Chris Johnston added a new dimension to the already potent backfield of Harris and Weaver by rushing for over 100 yards on just six carries.

performance at Hillwood, the Big Red took out its frustration on Father Ryan, thrashing the Irish 41-0. Having received the kickoff, the offense methodically drove down the field under the direction of Dickey and took a 7-0 lead on Harris' one yard touchdown run. Dickey then threw a long touchdown pass to Johnston on the next possession, increasing the lead to

Continued on page 9

From Father Ryan to MBA: Thank You

Reprinted from the Nov. 3, 1991 Tennessee Letters-to-the-Editor section

A memory just crossed my mind. I remember the rivalry between Father Ryan and our common enemy, Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA).

things that we did as teenage kids to show our pride for the school we attended. No harm in that; that's the way it's supposed to be. "Irish pride with an exclamation point!" as we used to say.

Many times we never consider the immense charity of others, especially that of those considered to be a boyhood enemy. Never until now.

MBA you can consider yourself a class act.

As I search back to my youth, I remember the juvenile pranks, such as painting the cannons in front of MBA purple (purple being Father Ryan's school color).

I remember large pep rallies, touting victory on the playing field the next night; the heated arguments as the two would meet and words were exchanged to excite the other into a provoked, good-time fight.

Those were the boyish, harmless, and immature

My boyish pride escapes me now and memories fade as I hear that half the money collected from last Friday night's MBA vs. Father Ryan football game - proceeds that were slated to go to MBA - will be donated instead to the financial aid of Father head football coach Joe Drennan, who is rehabilitating from a recent tragic auto accident. My pride turns now to gratitude, my memories a precious antique.

MBA you can consider yourself a class act - not just a high school memory. Your thoughtful and charitable gesture will not go unrewarded. Those rewards will be great in heaven.

We the friends of coach Joe Drennan and alumni of Father Ryan, thank you all. God bless!

Tom Lynch
120 Spring Place 37214

Congratulations to the Football team for an utterly fantastic season!!!

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